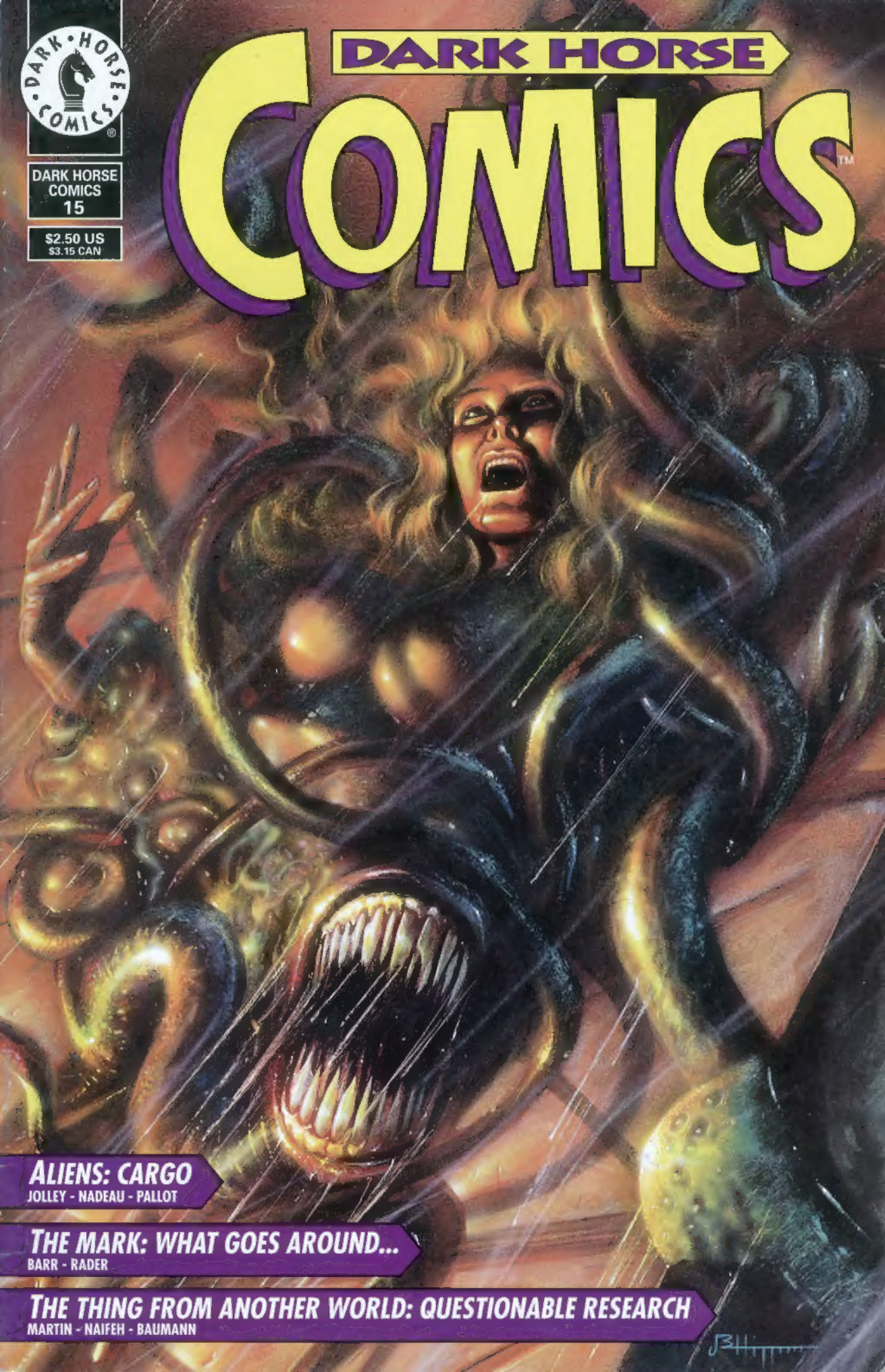
DARK HORSE COMICS
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ALIENS: CARGO
JOLLEY - NADEAU - PALLOT
THE MARK: WHAT GOES AROUND...
BARR - RADER
THE THING FROM ANOTHER WORLD: QUESTIONABLE RESEARCH
MARTIN - NAIFEH - BAUMANN

DARK HORSE #15 COMICS™

THE THING FROM ANOTHER WORLD: QUESTIONABLE RESEARCH 1

PART 3 OF 4
SCRIPT: EDWARD MARTIN III
PENCILS: TED NAIFEH
INKS: ALEX NIÑO
LETTERER: CLEM ROBINS
COLORS: RAY P. MURTAUGH

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THE MARK: WHAT GOES AROUND... 11

PART 2 OF 2
CREATORS: MIKE RICHARDSON & RANDY STRADLEY
SCRIPT: MIKE W. BARR
ART: BRADLEY C. RADER
LETTERER: CLEM ROBINS
COLORS: JOHN A. WILCOX
STORY EDITOR: BOB SCHRECK

ALIENS: CARGO 23

PART 1 OF 2
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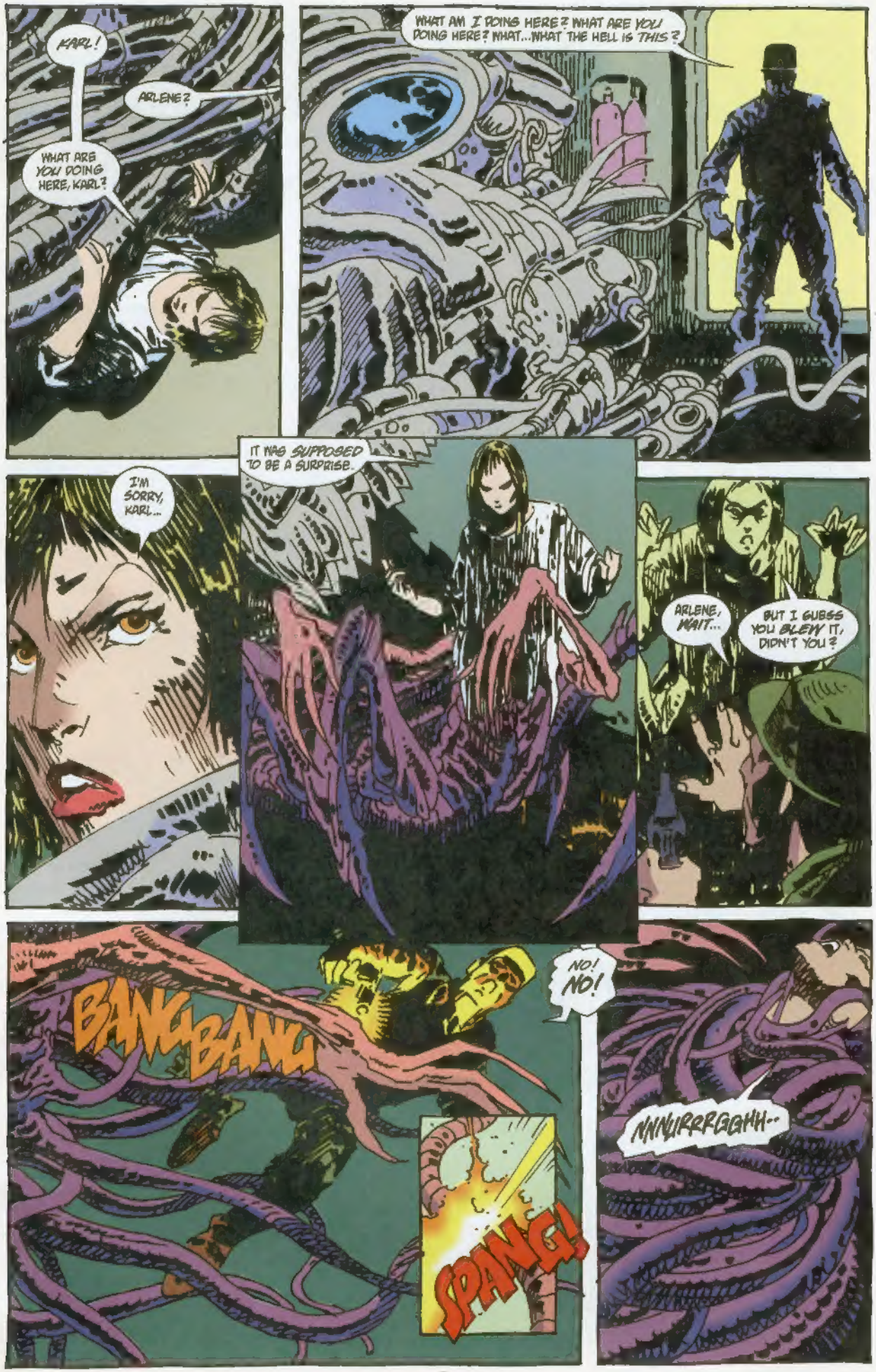
Printed in Canada

THE THING™ 3
FROM ANOTHER WORLD
QUESTIONABLE RESEARCH
NOBODY MOVE!
HOOPER, GET ME A BOX OF GLOVES.
HERE. A PAIR FOR EVERYBODY.
WHAT ARE WE DOING?
WE'VE GOT TO GET THESE PIECES BACK IN A TANK BEFORE THEY THAW.

THAT'S IT. I'M PRETTY SURE WE GOT IT ALL.
WE BETTER BE DAMN SURE OF IT. BECAUSE IF EVEN ONE CELL OF THIS THING GETS LOOSE...
OH MY GOD...
ONE OF US COULD ALREADY BE INFECTED.
I...SUPPOSE IT'S POSSIBLE.
OH NO...
I SHOULD TEST EVERY-BODY.
GOOD IDEA.

CLANG
TING
HEY, WHO'S THERE?
HELLO?
OH WOW!

BLAIR'S AUTOPSY NOTES SHOWED THAT THE LAST PART OF A CREATURE ASSIMILATED IS THE BRAIN. OUR TESTING INDICATES THE BLOODSTREAM IS THE MOST COMMON VECTOR.
OH, DAMN IT!
SORRY. JUST RELAX --THE REST IS EASY.
WELL, I GUESS THAT MAKES SENSE. BLOOD FEEDS EVERY CELL IN THE BODY.
POSSIBLY THE BRAIN IS LAST DUE TO ITS COMPLEXITY.
I REALLY CAN'T SAY. I'D RATHER NOT MAKE ANY ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT THIS THING'S MODUS OPERANDI. IT IS, AFTER ALL, COMPLETELY ALIEN TO US.
BUT THE PRACTICAL UPSHOT OF THIS IS THAT IF WHAT I THINK IS CORRECT, A PERSON MIGHT BE INFECTED AND NOT EVEN KNOW IT!
EXACTLY.
UNTIL IT'S TOO LATE.


KARL!
ARLENE?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, KARL?
WHAT AM I DOING HERE? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? WHAT...WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?
I'M SORRY, KARL...
IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A SURPRISE.
ARLENE, WAIT...
BUT I GUESS YOU BLEW IT, DIDN'T YOU?
BANG BANG
NO! NO!
SPANG!
NNNURRGGHH--

WHO WANTS TO GO FIRST? DOUGLAS?
SURE, WHY NOT? BETTER SAFE THAN--
HEY, WAIT A MINUTE. WE'RE MISSING TWO PEOPLE.
ARLENE AND KARL? I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT. WE BETTER CALL THEM IN.
OH COME ON! THEY HAVEN'T EVEN COME CLOSE TO CONTACT. THE CHANCES OF THEM BEING INFECTED ARE INFINITESIMAL!
BANG! BANG!
INFINITESIMAL, HUH? THOSE WERE GUNSHOTS! I BETTER GO CHECK IT OUT.
I HAVE TO GET GAMPLES ANYWAY, SO I BETTER GO, TOO.
I THINK THEY'LL BE NEEDING A CHAPERONE. WILL YOU TWO BE OKAY HERE UNTIL WE RETURN?
WE'LL BE FINE. GO. HURRY BACK.
HE'S A NICE MAN, REALLY.

GOOD GOD!
KARL, NO!
THIS IS YOUR FAULT, DAMN IT! JUST LOO--
GURRRK!
RUN, MARION! RUN!

GO! GET BACK TO THE LAB!
I DON'T THINK THIS WAS A GOOD IDEA, EITHER.
TO BE CONCLUDED NEXT ISSUE!

COMMENTS

10956 SE MAIN ST, MILWAUKIE, OR 97222

Welcome to **Dark Horse Comics** *#15. I'm Edward Martin III, the frantic assistant of Randy Stradley on this book and you'll be hearing from me in this column for a while. At least until Randy reads what I'm writing about him. I hope you've enjoyed reading this issue and in case you haven't, read it again, because you've obviously missed something enjoyable. Pass it around, in fact, to other people who need something enjoyable and see if they enjoy it. If they don't, then give up, since you've skewed the results anyway.*

Dark Horse Comics *has received fantastic response in the mail column department. Although we can't publish every single letter, you can bet each one is fervently read. I've seen some really great envelope art and read some very helpful suggestions.*

As examples, I present to you the latest of our letters, starting with Robert Knaus...

"...one stunning piece of artwork"

Dear Randy,

Arthur Adams' cover to ***Dark Horse Comics*** #11 was one stunning piece of artwork! No one can draw the big green guy like Adams. Speaking of which, Godzilla: "Blast from the Past" part two was tuh-riffic! I know that big G will be back, hopefully soon (hint, hint!). Keep the art team of Rubio and Garvey, they kick! Predator: "The Pride at Nghasa" part two was pretty good, with decent writing and art, but a definite sense of *déjà vu* hung over it. James Bond 007: "Light of My Death" was a generally exciting adventure, but it lacked the quality and depth of ***Serpent's Tooth*** or ***A Silent Armageddon***. Lastly, I was thrilled to see Mark A. Nelson's artwork in Aliens. "Taste," but the punchline was stupid. Just like the "Reapers" story in the ***DHP 5th Anniversary Special*** released about two years back, the Aliens are reduced to foodstuffs for a bunch of cheesy, bug-eyed monsters. Please! Before I leave, I must agree with Kevin Hall about the glut of Alien and Predator stories in ***DHC***. Give us a break here! See ya in thirty.

Robert Knaus
320 Fisher Street
Walpole, MA 02081

If you liked Arthur Adams' cover on **Dark Horse Comics**, *Robert, wait until you see his cover for next month's* **Dark Horse Presents** *#80! I've said it before and I'll say it again — that man is an amazing artist. If you're a* really *big fan of his, don't miss Dark Horse's* **Creature from the Black Lagoon**, *which is the closest thing to perfect art this world has to offer, barring certain French impressionists.*

Dear Randy,

The most impressive part of ***Dark Horse Comics*** #11 was the Arthur Adams cover. But before I get to that, I'll quickly comment on the four stories in the issue.

Aliens: "Taste": The art was fantastic, especially the detailed Alien eggs. The idea was interesting and a bit revolting. I chuckled and then threw up (just kidding!). But, haven't we already seen this before in the ***Dark Horse Presents Fifth Anniversary Special***? I'm eagerly awaiting Kilian Plunkett's trip into the world of Aliens.

Godzilla: "Blast from the Past": I liked this one, too, even though I have never read a Godzilla comic before. The art and story were great. We're obviously going to see more of Godzilla.

Predator: "The Pride at Nghasa": This story was very well-written, capturing the terror in the people being attacked by the "forest devil." The art was good, too. Dark shadows are used everywhere and really create a frightening mood.

Like I said, the cover was outstanding. The art and cool colors were perfectly done. The three circles on the left worked well. You should keep this cover format for future issues (I loved the Aliens crawling out of the circle).

Sincerely,

Dan Vasconcelos
P.O. Box 221
Princeton, MA 01541

By now, Dan, you should be familiar with our new look, which we'll be keeping for a while, so our designers can cool off before we hit them with the next facelift. Alas, the cameo circles aren't a part of that design, but if you're a reader of **Dark Horse Presents**, *our B&W anthology, you'll notice that we've used that style very effectively there. Art drew those in all on his own. Perhaps he's psychically linked with* **DHP**? *Sounds pretty spooky. We have some really amazing covers planned for future issues of* **Dark Horse Comics** *(such as John Higgins' fantastic cover on this issue) and it would be a shame to distract from them with cameo circles. As for seeing Godzilla again, well, only time will tell...*

Dear Dark Horse folks,

I just finished reading ***Dark Horse Comics*** #11. In reference to the Godzilla story. It started out as a good story, but ended way too soon. It left me hanging, wondering what would happen next. I didn't like the ending at all to a good story.

I do like the Alien and Predator stories very much, but would like to see other stories in there, such as a story like ***Virus*** or ***Propellerman***.

Otherwise, I really enjoy your comics and think you produce a quality comic.

Chris Buckland
15535 South Henrici Road
Oregon City, OR 97045

Chris, I hope you've been enjoying The Mark and The Thing from Another World: "Questionable Research," which are definitely different than Aliens or Predators. If you're looking for more stories that are different, be on the lookout for a new **Star Wars** *story, "Droids," as well as an even bigger surprise coming up later, but I don't want to spoil it just yet.*

"DHC #11 was pretty good!"

Dear Randy and folks,

Dark Horse Comics #11 was pretty good! I am always impressed by the production values on this title, and the clarity and quality of the printing is never anything but perfect.

As far as the stories within? Well, let's talk about that a minute or two, eh?

Aliens: "Taste." I was very glad that this was short and didn't use up much of this issue. I really didn't understand it, and didn't care for the story at all. Looked nice, but didn't mean a thing to me. "Ni modo," as we say here on the border, though. Doesn't matter as next month those pages will have something else that I may just rave about. No emergency.

Godzilla: "Blast from the Past." Now there is a great title for a story like this. Punny and funny! This was actually a good story about a monster that I never really cared about that much, but I am now curious as to what will happen next. Very well done, and quite interesting.

James Bond: "Light of My Death." The James Bond thing has never been a big deal to me. I have seen a few of the movies, but am not what you would call a James Bond fan. To me, the only good Bond movies were the ones with Sean Connery. However, this was interesting to me as I had never read a Bond story at all in any format, let alone in comic format. Pretty darn good. Not something I would run out and buy a full issue of maybe, but entertaining in small doses.

Predator: "The Pride at Nghasa." The Predator series is an interesting one. I have read a few other Predator stories, and heard of the movies. What interests me about this whole thing is that this is a series about a critter, or one of a species of critters, that always LOSES! ***Batman vs. Predator***? Batman wins. ***Magnus vs. Predator***? Magnus wins. The last Predator story I read here? Predator loses again, but I can't remember who won. The movies? Predator ultimately loses. It is a tribute to whoever is writing these stories, this one included, that I can be virtually certain that the Predator will lose, yet am enjoying the story. Especially since the Predator has basically a very high sense of honor and straightforward rules of combat. Draw one combatant out, let him know — more or less — what it is he or she is fighting against, then engage in combat. I like it. I might even buy the next Predator series that comes out if it is as good as this. Some of these British fellows in this story are quite hateful, and I don't think I will miss them at all.

All in all, this was another very good issue of ***DHC***. I look forward to this title every month, and I must say that it has yet to truly disappoint me. Thanks for the fine entertainment. Until next time .

Carl Pietrantonio
517 Idylwood Lane
Laredo, TX 78041

Many readers agree with you about Godzilla: "Blast from the Past," Carl. It was colorful, refreshing, and a lot of fun and I think you'll definitely be seeing more of it in the future. You see, Godzilla and Dark Horse are secret buddies, bent on conquering the world and everything clinging to its grimy little surface. I can't imagine it'll be difficult, as Godzilla is already bigger than Elvis and look how Elvis took the world.

Dear Dark Horse,

I'm not sure where this letter should go, since it covers several comics. I thought it would be easier to read only one letter instead of a bunch of letters. So here goes...

The ***Dark Horse Comics*** anthology is great. I just read issues #11 and #12, back-to-back. All of the stories were tremendous. This book is similar to ***Dark Horse Presents*** in that it contains chapters of a story. My one question concerning the two books is if you use the books as a springboard for the various series that you publish? I know that in some cases, it's true, like ***Aliens vs. Predator***. That was one of the best series I've ever read. The artwork and writing were superb. But on to current stories.

Dark Horse Comics #11 is wonderful (I'll have to check my thesaurus soon.) The Godzilla storyline brings back memories of those awful poorly dubbed movies that I used to watch so long ago. The only thing missing was the obviously fake models that were in the movies. Bobby Rubio, Brian Garvey, and Matt Hollingsworth did a terrific job rendering Godzilla. In fact, I think Dark Horse has published some of the best art I've ever seen.

The James Bond story is a bit different, artistically. But that difference sets up a beautiful contrast. The two styles make the book more interesting. John Watkiss' artwork reminds me of some old comic books I've seen.

The Aliens story is a riot. Graphically, it is on par with the other Aliens books I have. Superb art and a hilarious story. A wonderful twist on the Alien theme. "Backsplash" in ***DHC*** #12 has the most realistic artwork I've seen. Kilian Plunkett is sure to make a big name for himself with work of this caliber. I eagerly anticipate ***Aliens: Labyrinth***.

I've always been a fan of your Predator titles. The stories in #11 and #12 are among the reasons why. I don't think I've ever seen a Predator being chased by his own kind. Please forgive me, my Predator collection is not quite complete and I'm waiting until it is before I read them. Small price to pay for continuity, I say. The ending of "The Pride at Nghasa" shows that the Predator is not quite invincible. The best way to defeat a hunter is to make him the hunted. What better way for a Predator to be defeated than by creatures that humans think are inferior? That, I think, is the best point. For all that humans have accomplished, we are still arrogant. And that arrogance makes us blind to danger. Past Alien and Predator stories have made this point well. Don't get me wrong; I don't mind being human.

Back to the art. Some of the best cover artwork has involved Predators and Aliens. I will never forget the cover of ***Aliens: Colonial Marines*** #1. Derek Thompson is second only to Dave Dorman. Not only is Derek good at covers, his work in "Bad Blood" is as good as the cover. I hope to see more of him in future comics.

I apologize for how long this letter is. One more question and I'll let you get back to producing great comics. ***Marshal Law*** is slated to come out soon. Is there any chance that this limited series will result in a regular series, or at least more series? I have just about everything Marshal Law has appeared in. I have ***Super Babylon*** from your company, *Kingdom of the Blind* from Apocalypse, and the original Marvel/Epic releases. The Epic series was supposed to run twelve issues, but they only got as far as six, plus a one-shot. I don't know what Marvel's deal is, but if you have the license, I would like to see more of him. I can't wait for the ***Cape Fear*** series to debut. If all it takes to make Marshal Law a Dark Horse title is reader response, put me down as an avid Marshal Law supporter.

Finally, the end. May the Dark Horse ride forever!

Eugene Tang
311 Dwight Road
Middletown, NJ 07748

Well, you're more than just an avid **Marshal Law** *supporter, Eugene. You're also this month's Letter of the Month winner of a* **Comics' Greatest World Limited Platinum Edition Sourcebook**. *You see, I found out a while back that a* **Marshal Law** *fan is the one kind of person you don't ever want to cross — and I mean* ever! *I've talked with Robert Boyd, our in-house* Marshal Law Master *(and of course, another person I don't want to cross) and he told me that there are no current plans for a* **Marshal Law** *series after* **Secret Tribunal** *(originally named* **Cape Fear***), but I think enough interest from dedicated fans could very likely result in more* **Marshal Law** *books soon. Write him a letter and tell him what you think.*

Next issue, in **Dark Horse Comics** *#16, we debut Predator: "The Hunted City." Tony Vincenzo and Bernie Jinks are both "family" men, settling their differences with ambushes and machine guns. But they're being picked clean by a new boy in town and he isn't fighting for turf — he's hunting for trophies! Don't miss this terrific story by Charles Moore, featuring art by Doug Gregory, Rob Haynes, and Jasen Rodriguez. Also in the next issue, we conclude the frenetic tale of Coile's trap in Aliens: "Cargo" and witness the pyrokinetic finale of The Thing from Another World: "Questionable Research"! Don't miss* **Dark Horse Comics** *#16, shipping December 28, 1993.*

— Edward Martin III

STEPHANGART, CAPITOL OF THE EUROPEAN COUNTRY OF LUTZANY
LUTZANY
YOU ENGINEERS, MAKE SURE ALL IS READY!
OF COURSE, MR EBERHARDT
KLUTZ
TONIGHT: ARCHON CONQUERS AMERICA
THERE MUST BE NO SLIP-UPS WHEN THE ARCHON BROADCASTS FROM AMERICA TONIGHT.
OF COURSE NOT, MR EBERHARDT

SCRUB SHOULD HAVE DONE HIS JOB BY NOW..
ARE YOU READY TO DO YOURS, DUCHESS?
WHAT GOES AROUND
I HAVE BEEN READY FOR THIS SINCE THE ARCHON'S GRANDFATHER SEIZED LUTZANY FROM MY HUSBAND, DECADES AGO
LUTZANY BELONGS IN OUR HANDS, GRANDMERE

LARISSA, I HAVE TOLD YOU, THE LUTZANIAN MONARCHY IS A THING OF THE PAST--YOUR GREAT-GRANDFATHER NEVER UNDERSTOOD THAT I ASK YOU TO UNDERSTAND IT NOW.
THEN WHY DO YOU RISK YOUR LIFE, HELPING TO OVERTHROW THE ARCHON?

IF MY VOICE CAN HELP RALLY THE PEOPLE, SO BE IT BUT THE COUNTRY IS THEIRS LEAVE ME NOW, LARISSA IT IS BETTER YOU DO NOT KNOW WHERE I AM GOING GET SOMEPLACE SAFE
I WILL, GRANDMERE FAREWELL

THAT HATEFUL WALL! DIVIDING ARCHON'S "CHOSEN" FROM THOSE HE CONDEMNED TO THIS GHETTO! I WILL NEVER FEEL LITZANY TO BE TRULY FREE UNTIL IT FALLS!
YOU MAY YET LIVE TO SEE THAT ACCOMPLISHED

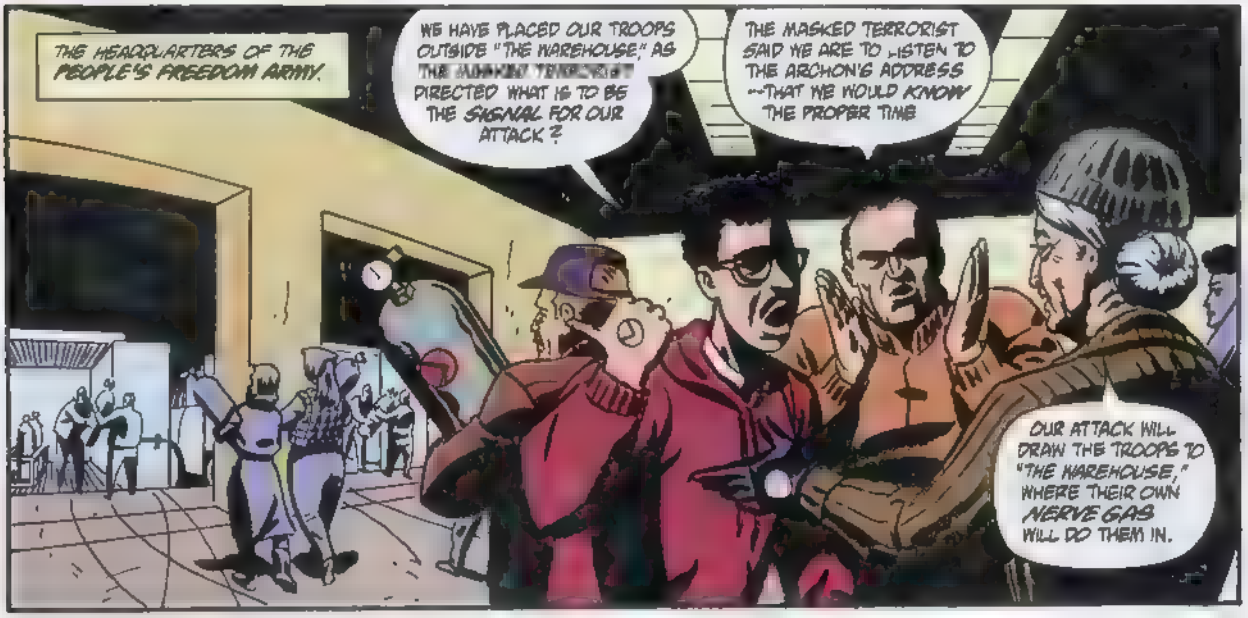
I APOLOGIZE FOR THE TRANSPORTATION.
IT IS UNNECESSARY. YOUR FRIENDS IN THE PEOPLE'S FREEDOM ARMY?
YES. WE HAVE DECIDED TO HANG TOGETHER, RATHER THAN SEPARATELY

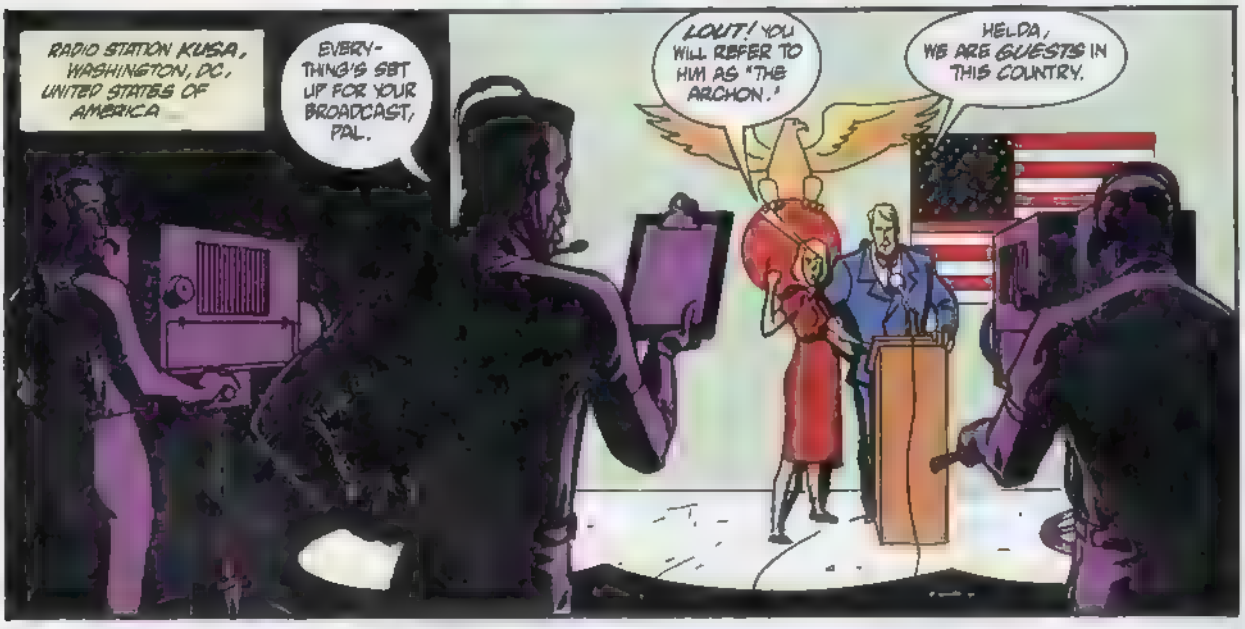
HURRY UP, YOU! DO YOU THINK YOU OWN THAT PHONE?

HEY! WAIT YOUR TURN, YOU!
OLD COW! YOU WILL BE SORRY YOU SPOKE THAT WAY TO ME!

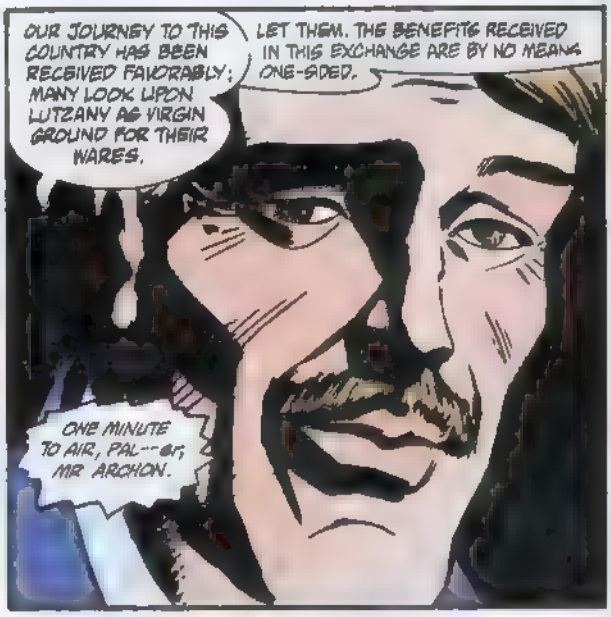
I COULD NOT FIND OUT WHERE THEY WILL BE BROADCASTING FROM. SHE WOULDN'T TAKE ME WITH HER
DON'T TROUBLE YOURSELF, LARISSA.

NOW THAT THEIR TRUE STRATEGY IS KNOWN, ELIMINATING THE MASKED TERRORIST AND HIS ALLIES WILL BE THE SIMPLEST STRATEGIC EXERCISE I WANT YOU HERE TONIGHT. THE STREETS WILL NOT BE SAFE
WILL YOU SEND A CAR FOR ME? WITH A HEATER? AND A BAR?
WHATEVER YOU WISH, MY DEAR

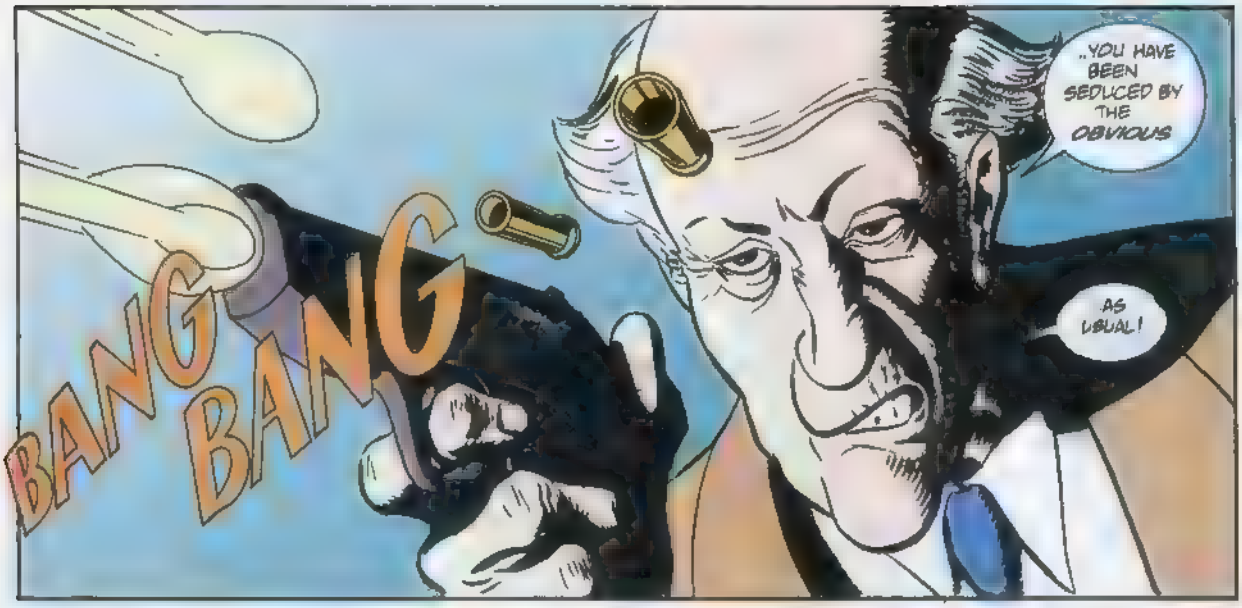

THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE PEOPLE'S FREEDOM ARMY.
WE HAVE PLACED OUR TROOPS OUTSIDE "THE WAREHOUSE," AS [illegible] DIRECTED. WHAT IS TO BE THE SIGNAL FOR OUR ATTACK?
THE MASKED TERRORIST SAID WE ARE TO LISTEN TO THE ARCHON'S ADDRESS --THAT WE WOULD KNOW THE PROPER TIME.
OUR ATTACK WILL DRAW THE TROOPS TO "THE WAREHOUSE," WHERE THEIR OWN NERVE GAS WILL DO THEM IN.


RADIO STATION KUSA, WASHINGTON, DC, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
EVERY-THING'S SET UP FOR YOUR BROADCAST, PAL.
LOUT! YOU WILL REFER TO HIM AS "THE ARCHON."
HELDA, WE ARE GUESTS IN THIS COUNTRY.

THESE AMERICANS --SO DISDAINFUL OF THEIR BETTERS. THEY WOULD BENEFIT FROM HEARING YOUR WORDS, ARCHON.
AN AMERICAN PRESIDENT ONCE QUOTED LAO TZU, HELDA: "A JOURNEY OF A THOUSAND MILES BEGINS WITH A SINGLE STEP."

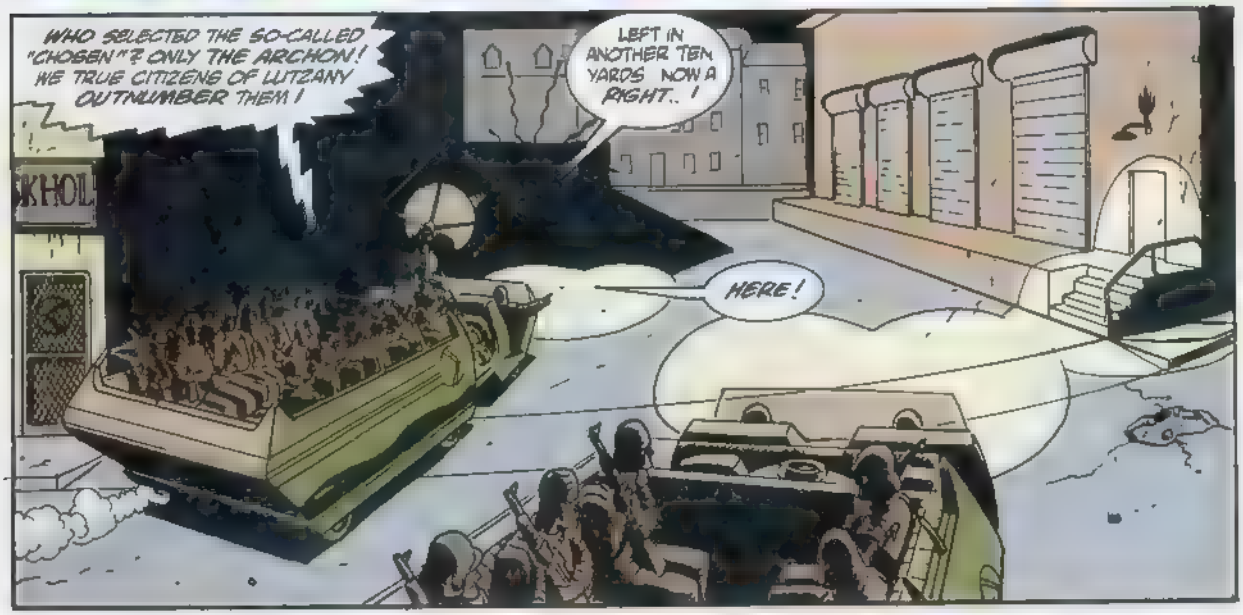

OUR JOURNEY TO THIS COUNTRY HAS BEEN RECEIVED FAVORABLY; MANY LOOK UPON LUTZANY AS VIRGIN GROUND FOR THEIR WARES.
LET THEM. THE BENEFITS RECEIVED IN THIS EXCHANGE ARE BY NO MEANS ONE-SIDED.
ONE MINUTE TO AIR, PAL--er, MR. ARCHON.

CITIZENS OF LUTZANY, I, THE ARCHON, YOUR LEADER AND SERVANT, SPEAK TO YOU FROM [redacted]...
...OUR ALLY IN THE STRUGGLE FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND FREEDOM..
NOW.
...AND THE HOME OF MANY NEW FRIENDS--
SCHWAKK
BEGIN.
CITIZENS OF LUTZANY, THIS IS THE DUCHESS ESMERALDA. THE ARCHON IS NEITHER YOUR SERVANT NOR YOUR TRUE LEADER.
HE SEIZED THE THRONE OF LUTZANY AS HE HAS SEIZED ALL HE CLAIMS AS HIS..
QUICKLY! BEFORE THEY CAN SOUND THE ALERT!
AT THE WAREHOUSE? SEND TROOPS THERE IMMEDIATELY--!
NO, EBERHARDT.


BANG
BANG
..YOU HAVE BEEN SEDUCED BY THE OBVIOUS
AS USUAL!

HELLO? THIS IS DR STEWARD--MR EBERHARDT HAS BEEN SHOT BY REBELS. NO, THE SITUATION IS UNDER CONTROL, BUT THERE IS STILL A GREATER DANGER YOU WILL DEPLOY THE TROOPS IN THIS FASHION...

AND HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE THE LOVER OF THE MAN WHO SAVED LUTZANY?
AS THOUGH I WERE A DUCHESS!

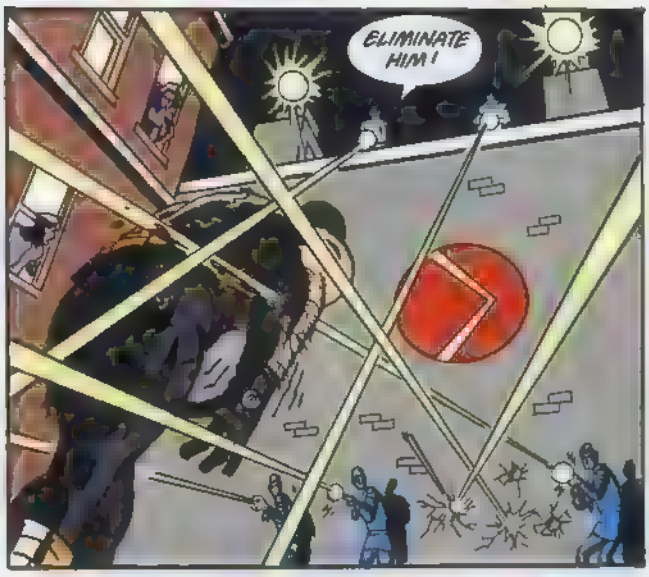

WHO SELECTED THE SO-CALLED "CHOSEN"? ONLY THE ARCHON! WE TRUE CITIZENS OF LUTZANY OUTNUMBER THEM!
LEFT IN ANOTHER TEN YARDS NOW A RIGHT..!
HERE!

THE ARCHON HIMSELF IS NO MORE LUTZANY'S TRUE LEADER THAN--
WHAT IS IT?
MAKE YOUR ESCAPE AS BEST YOU CAN, DUCHESS.
SURRENDER BY THE COUNT OF THREE OR--
..I WILL ENTERTAIN OUR UNINVITED GUESTS.
RRRAK!
OUR CAREERS WILL BE MADE IF WE CAPTURE HIM!
ONE SIDE! LET ME HAVE A HIT AT HIM!
WHAT--?
GOOD GOD..!

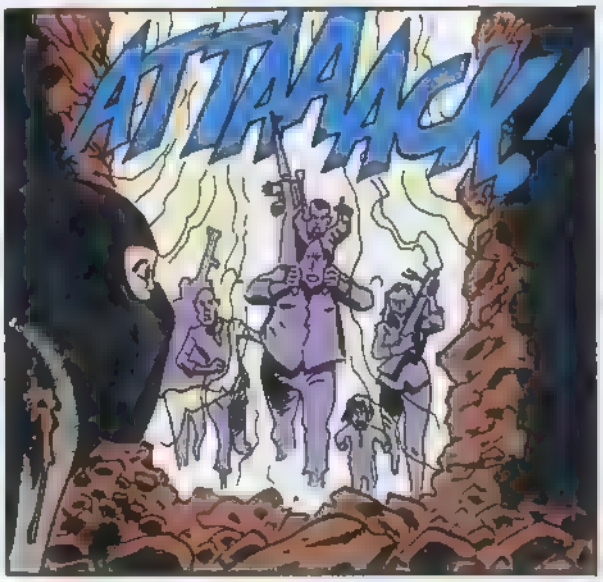
AAAGGHHHH--!
WERE YOU NOT ISSUED GUNS? FIRE!
O'WEEE
BANG
KRAK
HE CAN'T GET FAR WITH THESE WOUNDS!
CAPTAIN FIELD TO ALL UN TG THE MASKED TERRORIST IS IN THE VICINITY OF MY PREVIOUS REPORT.
CONGREGATE ON THE AREA AND HUNT HIM DOWN!
SOMEONE MUST HAVE BEEN MAKING THAT BROADCAST!
WHOEVER IT WAS IS LONG GONE!
ALL OF YOU KNOW, ISAAC IS OUR FRIEND! HE HAS FOUGHT FOR US, TRIED TO HELP US! WHEN WE WANTED TO REBEL HE STOPPED US, KNOWING WE WOULD BE HURT! NOW HE NEEDS US! WHAT WILL WE DO?
HELP HIM

BACK IN LINE, FREAKS!
WHO WANTS TO BE THE FIRST TO BE SHOT?
ME!
NO, M--
:GAH!:
NO LOITERING
THE ONLY RESISTANCE HERE WAS FROM THE WAREHOUSE GUARDS! THE CHOSEN TROOPS WERE NOT SENT TO ENGAGE US--AS WE HAD HOPED!
NO--THEY WERE SENT AFTER SCRUB'S FRIEND!
WAIT! THERE ARE MORE IMPORTANT THINGS THAN HELPING YOUR FRIEND!
NOT TO SCRUB!
THE MASKED TERRORIST HAS BEEN CORNERED, DR STEWARD! HIS CAPTURE IS IMMINENT!
PROCEED THERE AT ONCE! I WILL REPRESENT THE ARCHON IN THIS GLORIOUS MOMENT!

HERD HIM FORWARD! HE WILL HAVE NO PLACE TO RUN!

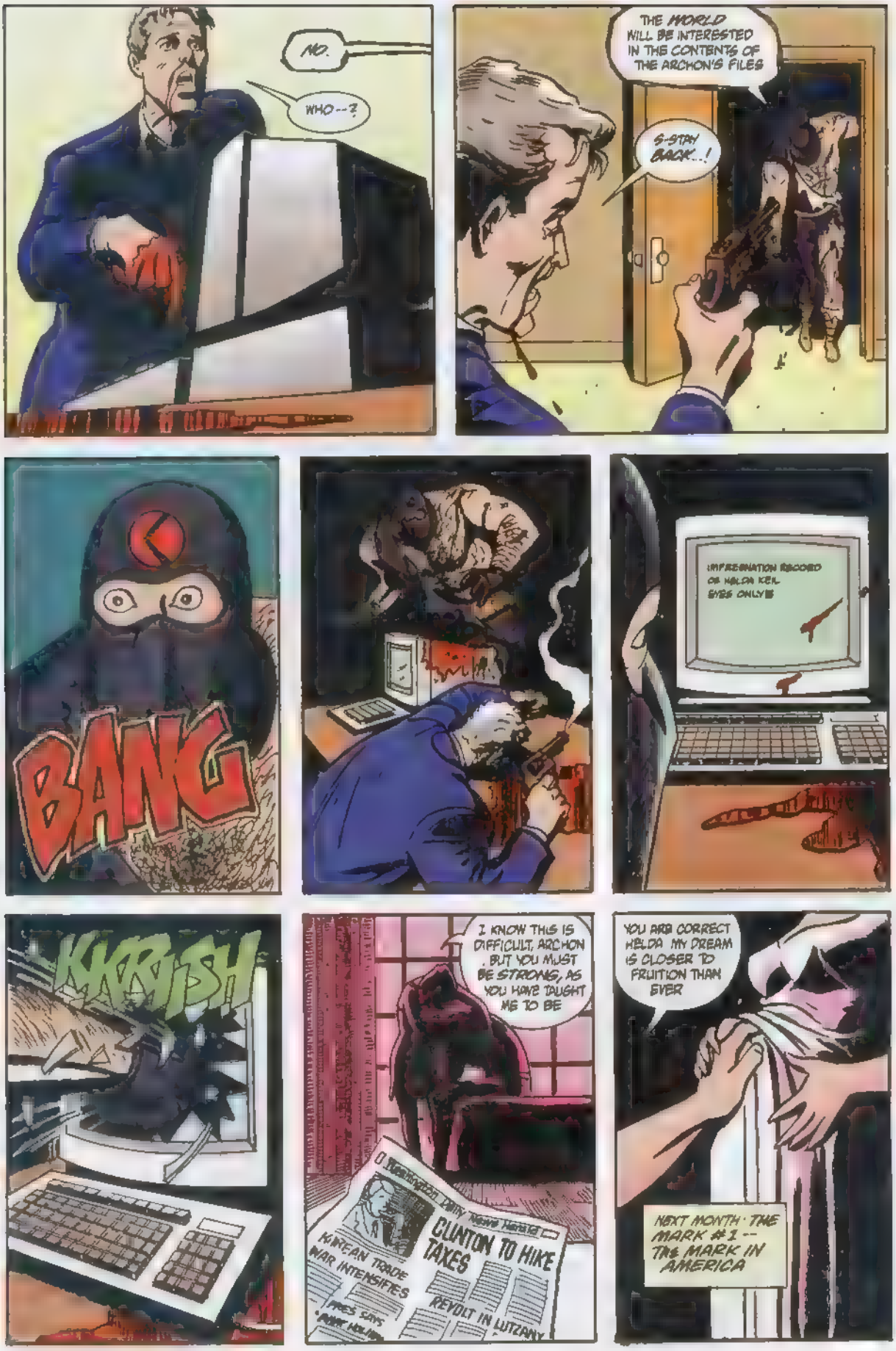

ELIMINATE HIM!

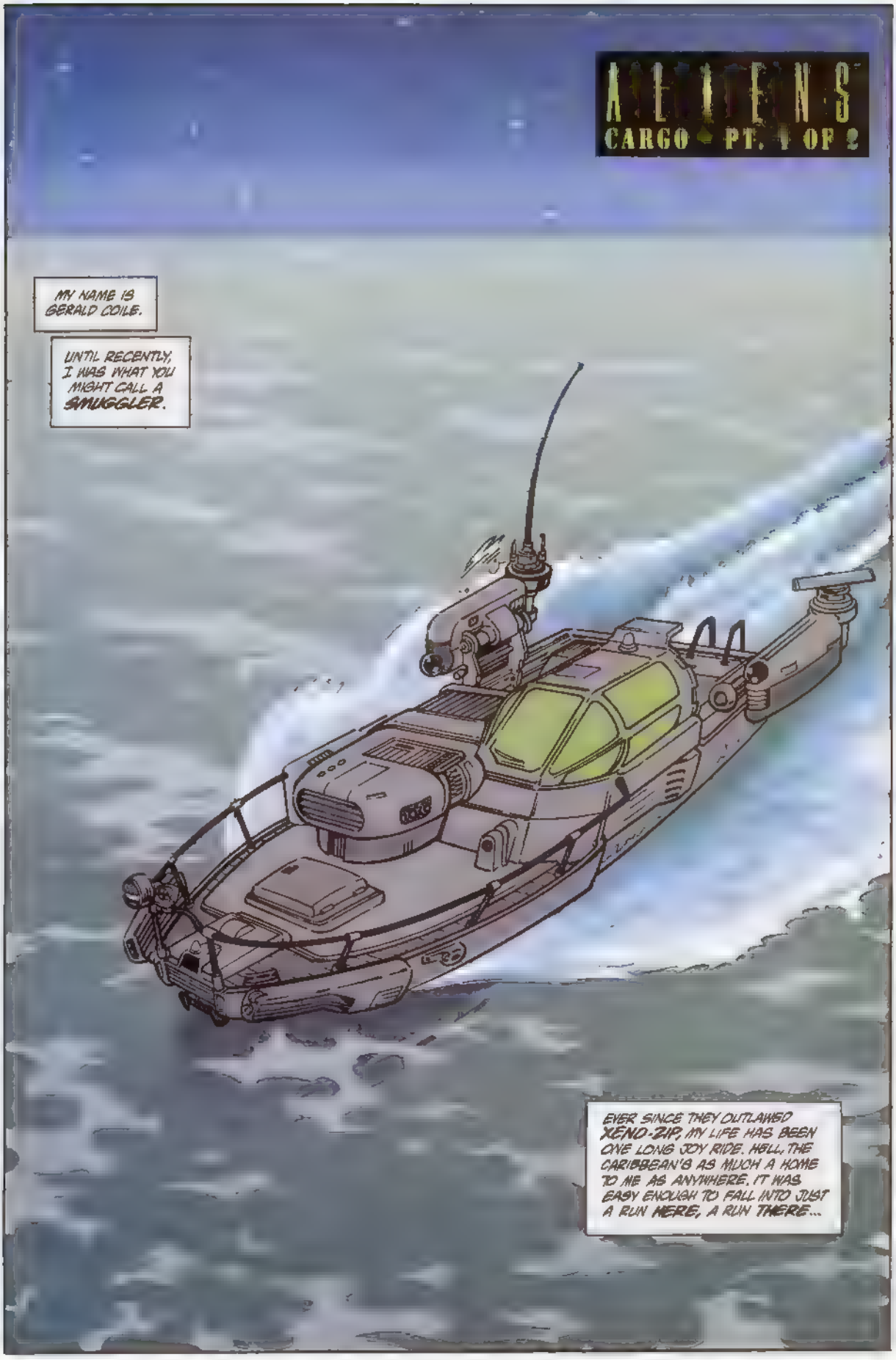
CROOM

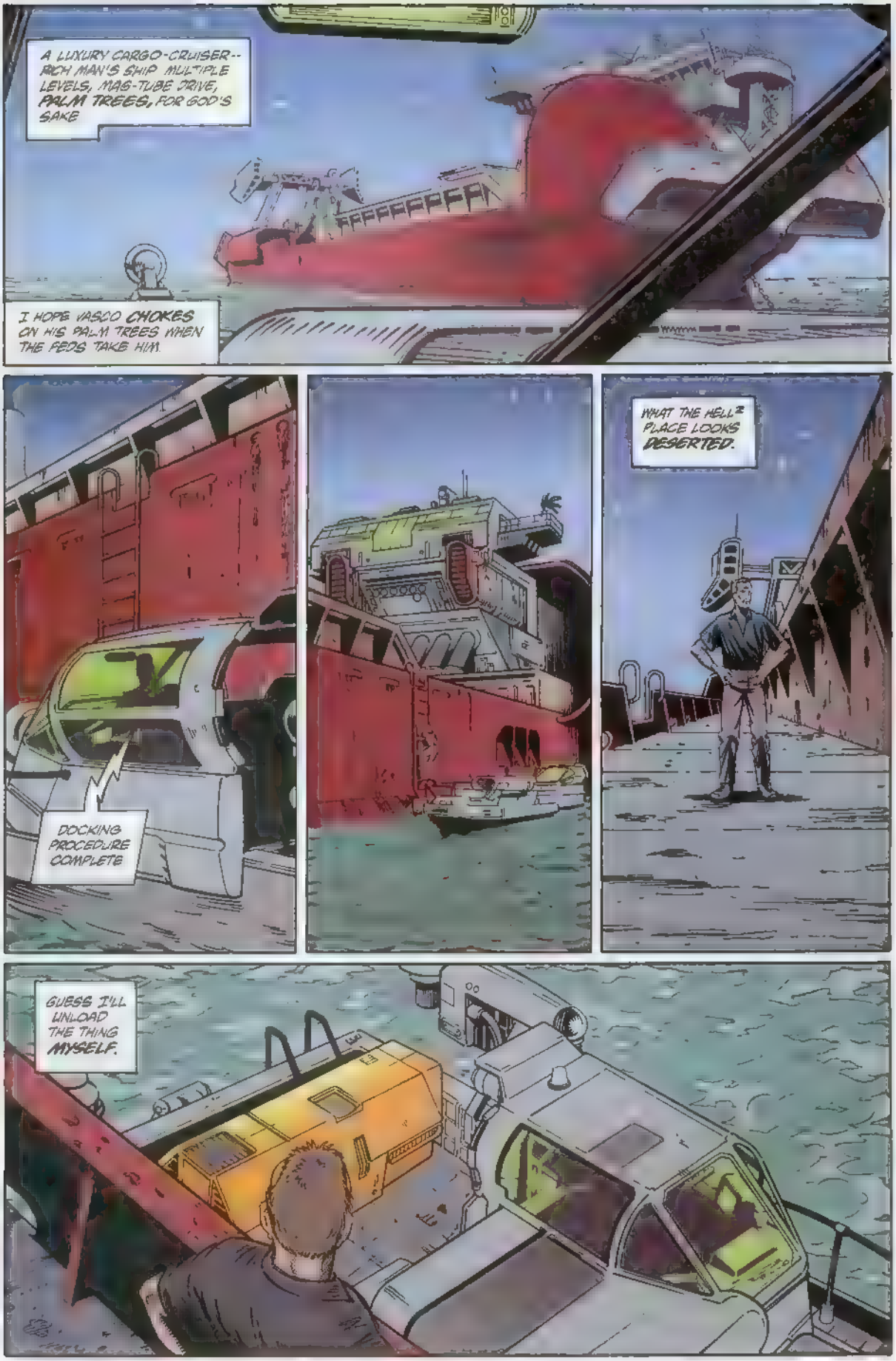

ATTAAACK!

FATHER, LOOK! THE WALL IS DOWN!
LET US TURN THE WORDS OF THE DUCHESS INTO DEEDS!

DR STENARD, THE CHOSEN HAVE BEEN ROUTED!
THE ANIMALS NEED SOMETHING ON WHICH TO VENT THEIR FURY..
AND I PREFER TO WORK BEHIND THE SCENES!
NO...!
EEEEEE
ONE WAY
JNNNHHH..
THE ARCHON'S FILES--!
EEEEEE
BOOM
BOOM
RATATATATAT
CRASH
BOOM

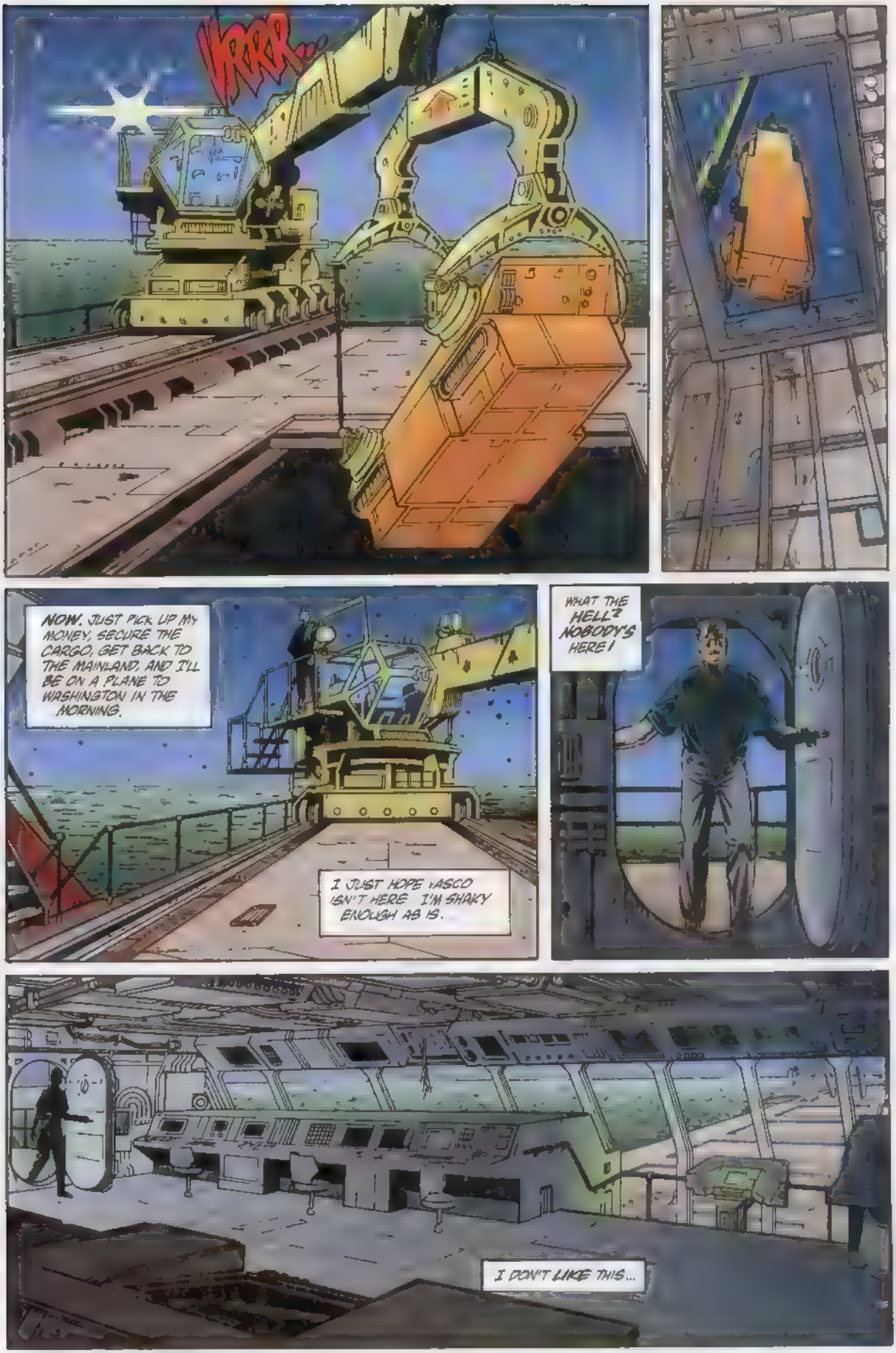

NO.
WHO--?
THE WORLD WILL BE INTERESTED IN THE CONTENTS OF THE ARCHON'S FILES
S-STAY BACK..!
BANG
INFREGNATION RECORD OF HELDA KEIL EYES ONLY!!
KKRRISH
I KNOW THIS IS DIFFICULT, ARCHON . BUT YOU MUST BE STRONG, AS YOU HAVE TAUGHT ME TO BE
Washington Daily News Herald
CLINTON TO HIKE TAXES
KOREAN TRADE WAR INTENSIFIES
REVOLT IN LUTZANY
YOU ARE CORRECT HELDA MY DREAM IS CLOSER TO FRUITION THAN EVER
NEXT MONTH: THE MARK #1 -- THE MARK IN AMERICA


ALIENS
CARGO - PT. 1 OF 2
MY NAME IS GERALD COILE.
UNTIL RECENTLY, I WAS WHAT YOU MIGHT CALL A SMUGGLER.
EVER SINCE THEY OUTLAWED XENO-ZIP, MY LIFE HAS BEEN ONE LONG JOY RIDE. HELL, THE CARIBBEAN'S AS MUCH A HOME TO ME AS ANYWHERE. IT WAS EASY ENOUGH TO FALL INTO JUST A RUN HERE, A RUN THERE...


A LUXURY CARGO-CRUISER-- RICH MAN'S SHIP MULTIPLE LEVELS, MAG-TUBE DRIVE, PALM TREES, FOR GOD'S SAKE
I HOPE VASCO CHOKES ON HIS PALM TREES WHEN THE FEDS TAKE HIM.
DOCKING PROCEDURE COMPLETE
WHAT THE HELL? PLACE LOOKS DESERTED.
GUESS I'LL UNLOAD THE THING MYSELF.

BUT NOW, THANKS TO A TALK WITH THE BOYS IN BADGES, MY BOSS IS GOING DOWN, AND I'M GETTING OUT.
I'M GETTIN' TOO OLD FOR THE GAME, AND THE P.E.A. IS MY TICKET TO OBSCURITY
NO MORE JELLY PAYLOADS, NO MORE XENO-ZIP. JUST RELOCATION AND A NAME CHANGE.
DOCKING PROCEDURE INITIATED.
JUST ONE "AS" RUN, AND I'M FREE.
ENABLE
TIK-TAK
ACKNOWLEDGED

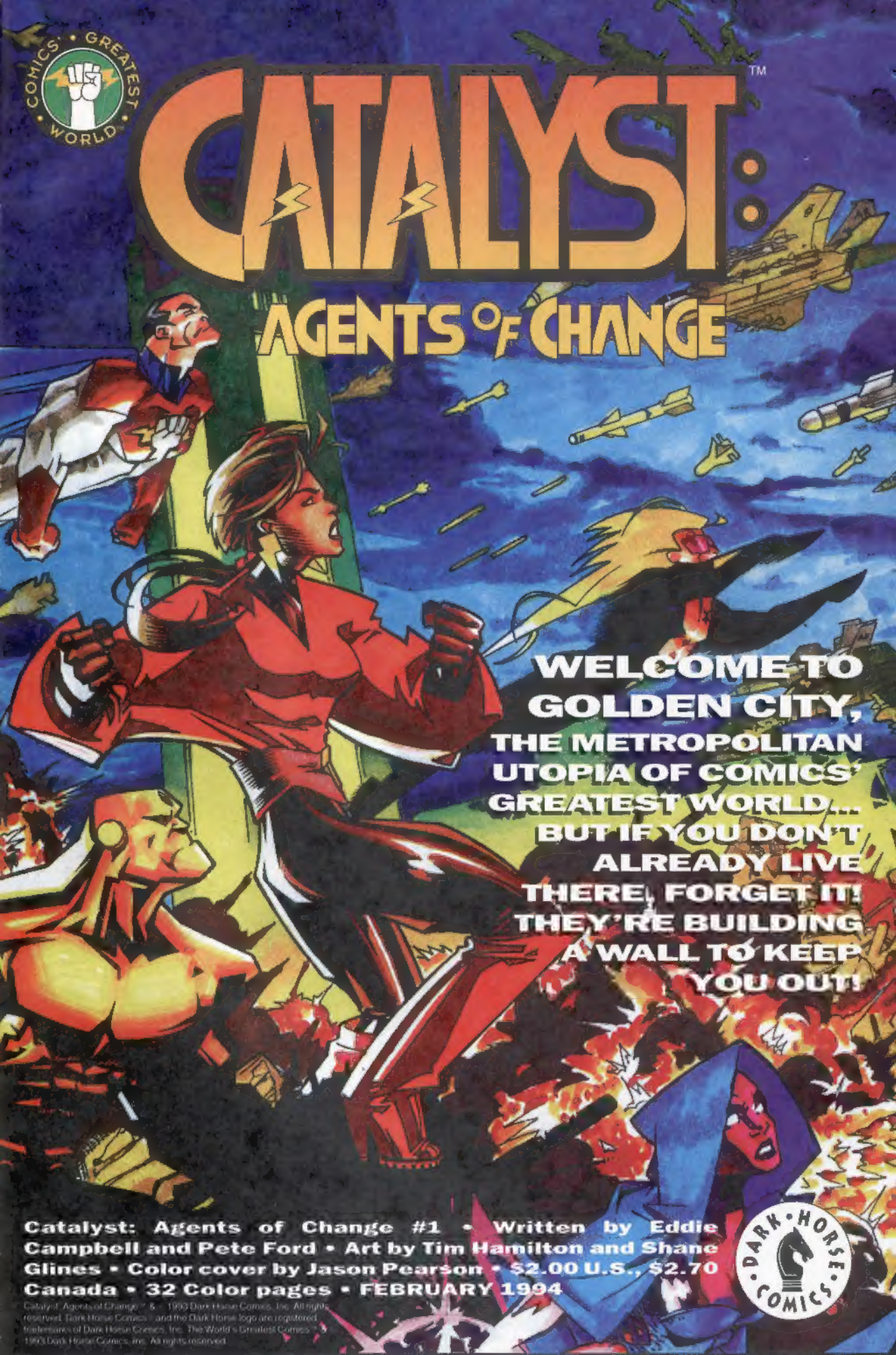
TEK
VROOR
CHUMP
RRNNN
RRNRN
DEET DEET
CHAK
FOX
PAK


VRRRR...
NOW. JUST PICK UP MY MONEY, SECURE THE CARGO, GET BACK TO THE MAINLAND, AND I'LL BE ON A PLANE TO WASHINGTON IN THE MORNING.
I JUST HOPE VASCO ISN'T HERE. I'M SHAKY ENOUGH AS IS.
WHAT THE HELL? NOBODY'S HERE!
I DON'T LIKE THIS...

ONLY POWER LEFT IS AUXILIARY. THAT'S NOT ENOUGH TO MOVE THIS TUB THO KLICKS
WHAT'S HAPPENING HERE?
BETTER HAVE A LOOK AT THAT CARGO.
PING PING
PING PING
OH HELL.

HI, JERRY. HOPE YOU ENJOYED THAT CONVERSATION WITH THE FEDS IT WAS YOUR LAST.
YOU MAY WANT TO CHECK YOUR DINGHY. I LEFT A PRESENT BEHIND!
DEET DEET
BWA
ROOM!
MY BOAT!
NOBODY ROLLS OVER ON ME, JERRY. NOBODY!
CHAK!
KA-CHUNK!
FWUMP

HOW DO YOU LIKE MY NEW PET, JERRY?
I THOUGHT IT MIGHT WANT TO EAT BEFORE IT GOT HOME!


COMICS' • GREATEST • WORLD
CATALYST:
AGENTS OF CHANGE
WELCOME TO GOLDEN CITY, THE METROPOLITAN UTOPIA OF COMICS' GREATEST WORLD... BUT IF YOU DON'T ALREADY LIVE THERE, FORGET IT! THEY'RE BUILDING A WALL TO KEEP YOU OUT!
DARK • HORSE • COMICS

Catalyst: Agents of Change #1 • Written by Eddie Campbell and Pete Ford • Art by Tim Hamilton and Shane Glines • Color cover by Jason Pearson • $2.00 U.S., $2.70 Canada • 32 Color pages • FEBRUARY 1994

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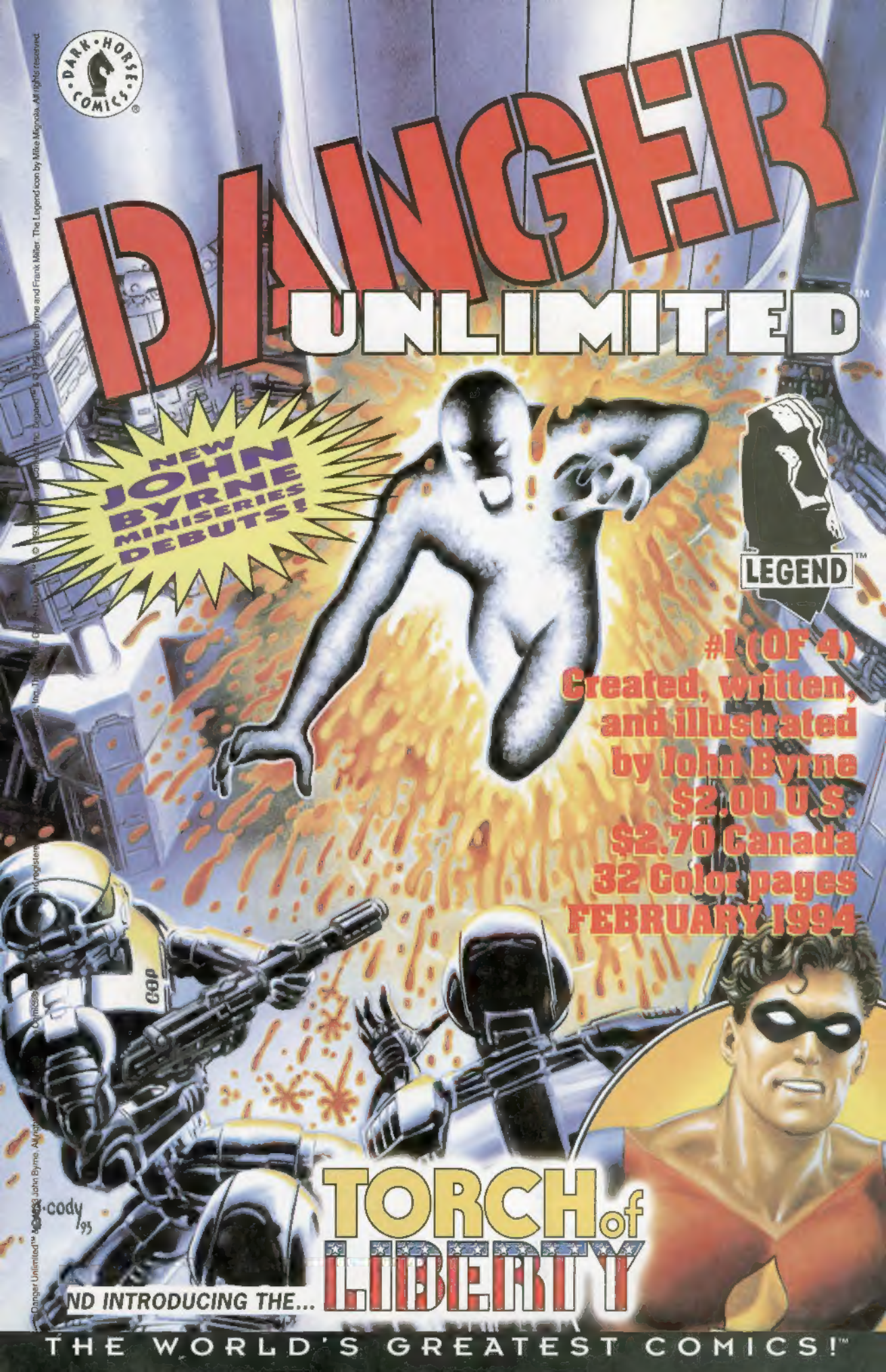
THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMICS!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FINISH LINE

The summer of 1993 will probably go down in comic-book history as "Superhero Summer." Never before have you, the reader of superhero comics, been presented with so many choices—and, given the number of beautifully drawn and produced books available, never before has the choice of which titles to purchase been so difficult. Therefore, it was extremely gratifying to see that so many of you chose to get in on the ground floor of our new "universe," ***Comics' Greatest World***. Not only did initial orders far exceed our expectations, but we've received report after report from retailers stating that sell-through on the series (the number of ordered copies that sell within the time that the issue is on the stands) has been nearly 100%. In fact, the 16-week, 16-issue promotional "tour" of **Arcadia**, **Golden City**, **Steel Harbor**, and **The Vortex** was so successful, it has actually shaped our plans for the future of the line.

However, sales figures aren't the only way we measure success at Dark Horse. It's all well and good that consumers buy our comics, but we've failed in our mission if the content of the books doesn't bring the reader enjoyment and entertainment equal to the money spent on the comic. That's where reader response comes in, and we've been paying close attention to the thoughts and feelings expressed in your letters to Dark Horse, letters to comics trade publications, comments on computer networks, and face-to-face responses at conventions. Your reactions have been overwhelmingly positive—not to mention extremely helpful to us as we plot the course of events in this new world. You've also indicated one area in which we have been, perhaps, the tiniest bit lax in providing information.

Far and away the most-asked question regarding ***CGW*** has been: "Which characters are going to get their own monthly series?"

One part of that answer has already been supplied. In mid-October you saw the debut of ***Out of the Vortex***, in which the U.S. military was forced to come to terms with not only being kicked out of its most-secret and important installation by a being with godlike powers, but with the fact that we humans are not alone in the galaxy, and that the Seekers are but the first wave of a force that wants to eradicate all life on Earth. Caught in the middle of all of this is Lt. Eileen Anderson, wife, mother, Army career woman, and now the specially "anointed" liaison between humanity and the mysterious man from the Vortex.

Out of the Vortex will feature action on a cosmic scale, and without a doubt will greatly affect a number of characters from the other three locations that so far make up ***Comics' Greatest World***. The adventure is brought to you by writer **John Ostrander**, penciller **Damon Willis**, and inker **Joe Rubenstein**.

January will bring you the first issue of ***X***. Arcadia's masked vigilante kicked off ***Comics' Greatest World*** with his first appearance in issue #8 of our anthology title ***Dark Horse Comics***, and since that time has generated more mail than any other character. X will continue dealing out rough justice among the shadows of America's most corrupt city, but his job will get tougher when the unstoppable, death-defying hit man Gamble comes to town. X always gets his man, but so does Gamble. Should be quite a showdown. Writer **Steven Grant**, penciller **Doug Mahnke**, and inker **Jimmy Palmiotti** chronicle the mayhem.

Catalyst: Agents of Change, the super-team put together by Golden City's amazing Grace pick up in February where it left off this past summer—having just announced the city's secession from the rest of the U.S. of A. Obviously, this doesn't sit well with the folks in Washington, D.C., and it won't be long before the members of Catalyst will have to face the military, and the nuclear might of Grenade. Writers **Eddie Campbell** and **Pete Ford**, penciller **Tim Hamilton**, and inker **Shane Glines** deliver the action and intrigue.

Finally, with the city of Steel Harbor settling back into its routines after the rioting last summer, bounty hunter ***Barb Wire*** goes back to plying her trade in April. The mean streets of Steel Harbor have never been safe, but things go from bad to worse when the bring-'em-back-dead bounty hunter Death Card muscles in on Barb's action. And don't forget about Mace Blitzkrieg and the Prime Movers—they certainly haven't forgotten how Barb Wire helped ruin their plans to take control of the city during the riots. The job of bringing you the battle for the streets falls to writer **John Arcudi**, penciller **Lee Moder**, and inker **Ande Parks**.

That's it for the monthly titles. Of course there are specials, and the upcoming appearances in ***Dark Horse Comics***, the card set from Topps that will appear in January, and our "surprise" scheduled for next summer, but those are subjects for another column. Until then, keep your cards and letters coming. If you're reading ***Comics' Greatest World***, you're in on the ground floor of a new and exciting world, and your comments can help shape what happens in years to come!

—Randy Stradley

NOV. CHECKLIST

SHIPPING NOVEMBER 9

- ☐ CHEVAL NOIR #48
- ☐ DARK HORSE PRESENTS #79
- ☐ JOHN BYRNE'S NEXT MEN: FAITH #2
- ☐ PROPELLERMAN #6
- ☐ VERSION #2.4
- ☐ OUT OF THE VORTEX #2

SHIPPING NOVEMBER 16

- ☐ ALIENS VOLUME 2 #1.8 (U.K. edition)
- ☐ ANDREW VACHSS' UNDERGROUND #1
- ☐ ANDREW VACHSS' UNDERGROUND POSTERS
- ☐ FLOATERS #3
- ☐ GRENDEL TALES: FOUR DEVILS, ONE HELL #4
- ☐ ROBOCOP: MORTAL COILS #3
- ☐ STAR WARS: TALES OF THE JEDI #2

SHIPPING NOVEMBER 23

- ☐ AGE OF REPTILES #1
- ☐ AGE OF REPTILES POSTERS
- ☐ ALIENS: SALVATION
- ☐ DARK HORSE INSIDER #25
- ☐ LUX & ALBY #8

SHIPPING NOVEMBER 30

- ☐ ALIENS: LABYRINTH #3
- ☐ ALIENS/PREDATOR: THE DEADLIEST OF THE SPECIES #3
- ☐ CARAVAN KIDD HOLIDAY SPECIAL
- ☐ CITY OF FIRE PORTFOLIO
- ☐ DARK HORSE COMICS #15
- ☐ THE EUDAEMON #3
- ☐ PETE & MOE VISIT PROFESSOR SWIZZLE'S ROBOTS
- ☐ STAN SHAW'S BEAUTY & THE BEAST
- ☐ UNIVERSAL MONSTERS: THE MUMMY

SHIPPING DECEMBER 7

- ☐ CLASSIC STAR WARS #15
- ☐ INDIANA JONES: THUNDER IN THE ORIENT #4
- ☐ SIN CITY: A DAME TO KILL FOR #1
- ☐ SIN CITY: A DAME TO KILL FOR POSTERS
- ☐ SIN CITY POSTCARDS
- ☐ SIN CITY T-SHIRT

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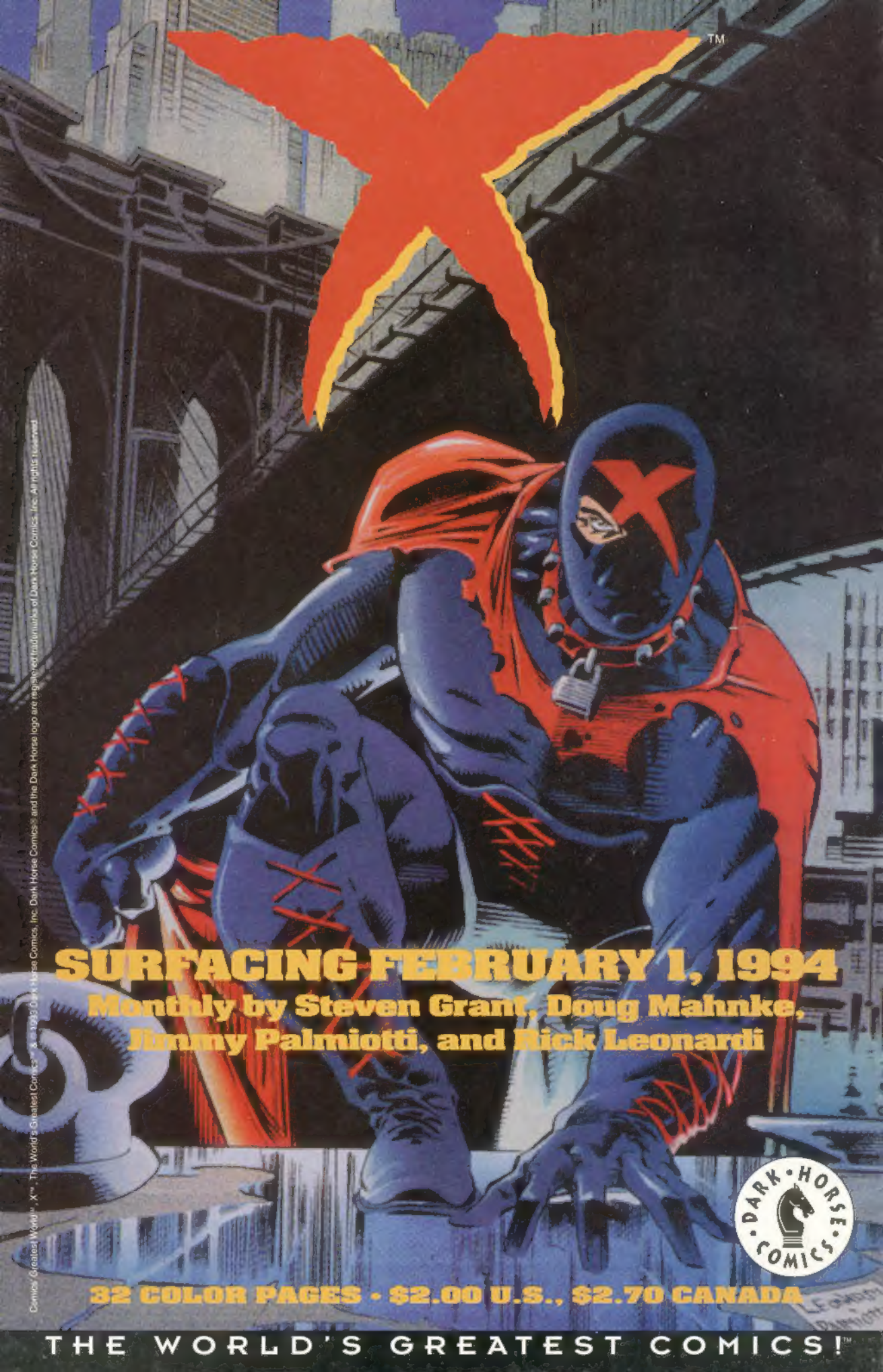
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SURFACING FEBRUARY 1, 1994
Monthly by Steven Grant, Doug Mahnke,
Jimmy Palmiotti, and Rick Leonardi
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